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Lawn Ball: Comparative Perspective of India & Malaysia

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Abstract:

A comparative study was conducted on *international* players of lawn bowl. The study was conducted on 22 players who volunteered from India and Malaysia (11 players from each country). The Questionnaire contained 35 questions under categories of facilities, coaches, benefits, selection, performance, promotion and publicity of the game (reliability 0.89 & Validity .82). Percentage of responses was calculated. For *facilities* Malaysians had an opinion that on an average 85.5 % Malaysia had the players, coaches, equipments, play facilities, coaches and a maximum utilization of the facilities and Indians had an opinion that on an average 16.35% India had the facilities. On the factor of *coaches' quality* the Malaysians had an absolute opinion 100% and were extremely positive of the role, knowledge, efficiency, punctuality, helping nature for players. On the factor of *coaches' quality* the Indians 53.57% and were of the positive whereas 46.43% players were having a negative opinion about the coaches' quality and their role played at various levels. On the factor of *benefits* to the players monetary (state level), off season camps, duration of camps, national government support, honour & motivation, continuous competitions etc the *Malaysians* 85.65 % supported the opinion whereas 14.35% were found to be apprehensive of the benefits. On the factor of *benefits* to the players monetary etc 69.88% *Indians* supported the opinion whereas 30.12 % were found to be apprehensive of the benefits. On the factor of *selection of the team* regarding regional preferences and background the 51.57% Malaysians were in agreement to the procedures however 41.43% were not in agreement. On the factor of *selection of the team* regarding regional preferences and background the 85.04 % *Indians* were in agreement to the procedures however 15.06% were not in agreement. On the factor of *performance of the team* regarding commitment to performance, psychological preparedness & professionalism 96.96 % Malaysian players had agreement for it however 3.03% were not in agreement. On the factor of *performance of the team* 79.98 % Indian players had agreement for it however 12.4 were not in agreement. *Promotion & Publicity factor* had 85.44% Malaysian players agreeing whereas 14.56 % not in agreement whereas 79.98% Indian players agreeing whereas 20.02 % not in agreement.

1.1 Introduction

Bowls historians believe that the game was developed from Egypt. One of their pastimes was to play skittles with round stones. The sport spread across the world and took a variety of forms, Bocce (Italian), Bolla (Saxon), Bolle (Danish), Boules (French) and Ula Miaka (Polynesian). World Bowls stretches over 6

continents and covers 52 member National Authorities in 46 Member Nations from Botswana to America via Fiji. The oldest lawn bowls site in play is in Southampton, England. Records show that the green has been in operation since 1299 A.D. During the reign of Richard II bowls were referred to as "gettre de pere" or "jetter de pierre," and describes throwing a stone, probably as round as possible. In the early 15th century bowls were made of hardwoods and, after the 16th century discovery of Santo Domingo, of lignum vitae, a very dense wood. There is little knowledge of Bowls in India. The initiation of the game dates from 2007. Foreign coaches were invited to identify talent and coach them. State Championships and Nationals were conducted to increase the popularity of the game and attract more players from different states. The process continued from December 2008 to 2009 when Indian team represented at the Asia-Pacific Championships in 2009. 2010 Commonwealth Games was the turning point for the game of bowls. Due to the Games there are 3 greens in Delhi. This Complex comprised 4 synthetic floodlight greens with accommodation for spectators etc. In India after Commonwealth Games 2010 lawn bowls took a step forward to 34th National Games, Jharkhand where 8 states qualified for the Senior Nationals.

2.1 Procedure and Methods

A comparative study was conducted on the players of lawn bowl. The study was conducted on 22 players who volunteered from India and Malaysia (11 players from each country). The Questionnaire contained 34 questions which were divided under the heads of Facilities, Coaches, Benefits, Selection, Performance, and Promotion and Publicity of the game (reliability .89 & Validity .82). As the data collected is not in ratio and interval scale it is a nominal scale i.e. non parametric statistic is applied (T parallel option, cross volis/ manvetni the substitute of non parametric T- test is applied).

3.1RESULTS:

On the **factor of facilities** Malaysians agreed that they have specialized lawn bowl players (63.3%), facilities at school (72.2%), qualified coaches at various levels (72.20%), grounds for practice (81.8%), qualified coaches training state teams & medical facilities (100%), existing facilities in state with proper utilization of latest gadgets (90.9%), availability of stadium to practice the sport 90.9%.

On the factor of facilities Indians agreed that they have specialized lawn bowl players (18.1%), facilities at school (0%), qualified coaches at various levels (0%), grounds for practice (36.3%), coaches for state team (45.5%), medical facilities (81.8%), existing facilities in state (72.7%) latest gadgets and availability of stadium (63.6%).

Table 1

CRITERIA	MALAYSIA	INDIA
Fig. No. 1 Facilities		

➤ Specialised Players	63.3%	18.1%
➤ Facilities at School Level	72.2%	27.2%
➤ Qualified Coaches at School/Institute	72.2%	0%
➤ Standardized Grounds at School	81.8%	36.3%
➤ Qualified Coach for State Team	100%	45.4%
➤ Medical Facilities	100%	81.8%
➤ Sufficient Facilities	100%	72.7%
➤ Latest Gadgets	90.9%	63.6%
➤ Utilization	90.9%	63.6%
➤ Stadium to Practice	90.9%	63.6%

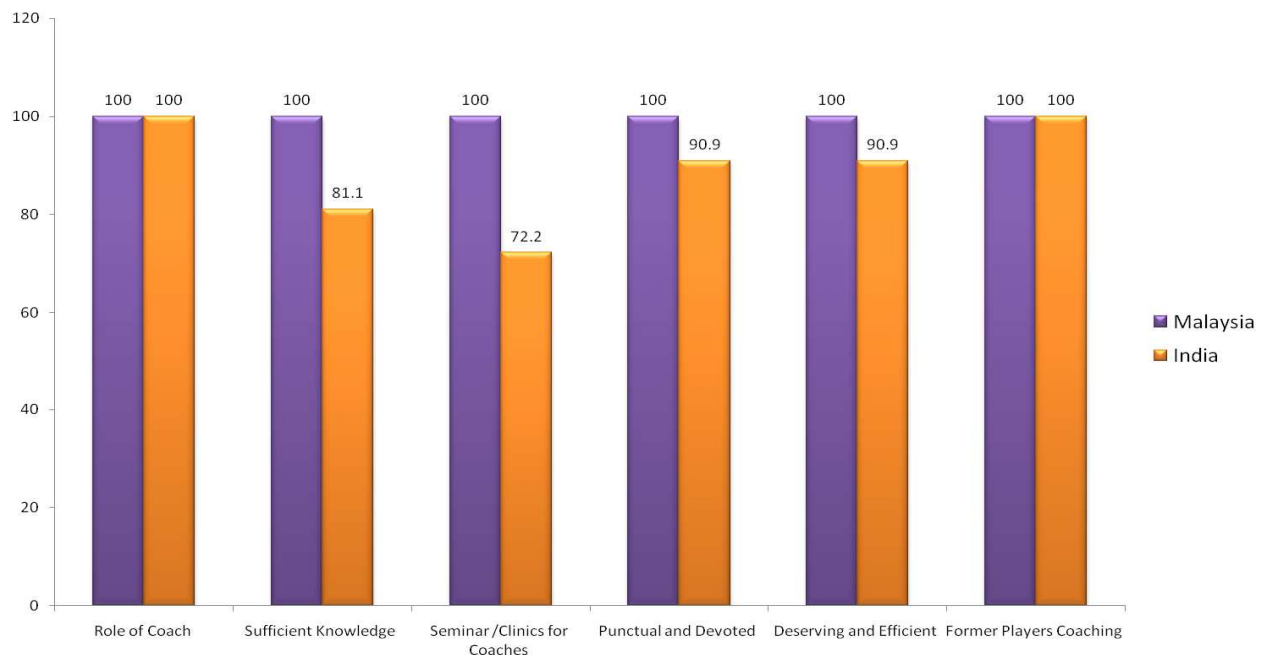
On the **factor of coaches** Malaysian strongly agreed (100%) the role of coach is extremely important to determine the performance of the team with sufficient knowledge of the game, seminars/ clinics conducted regularly for their update, punctuality , deserving & efficient (100%), former players are key to coaching. On the factor of coaches Indian too agreed (100%) that the role of coach is very important, sufficient knowledge (81.1%), seminars/ clinics conducted (72.7%), punctual & devoted , deserving and efficient (90.9%), 100% agreed on former players coaching.

Table 2

CRITERIA	MALAYSIA	INDIA
Fig. No. 2 Coaches		
➤ Role of Coach	100%	100%

➤ Sufficient Knowledge	100%	81.1%
➤ Seminar /Clinic for Coaches	100%	72.2%
➤ Punctual and Devoted	100%	90.9%
➤ Deserving and Efficient	100%	90.9%
➤ Former Players Coaching	100%	100%

Fig : 2



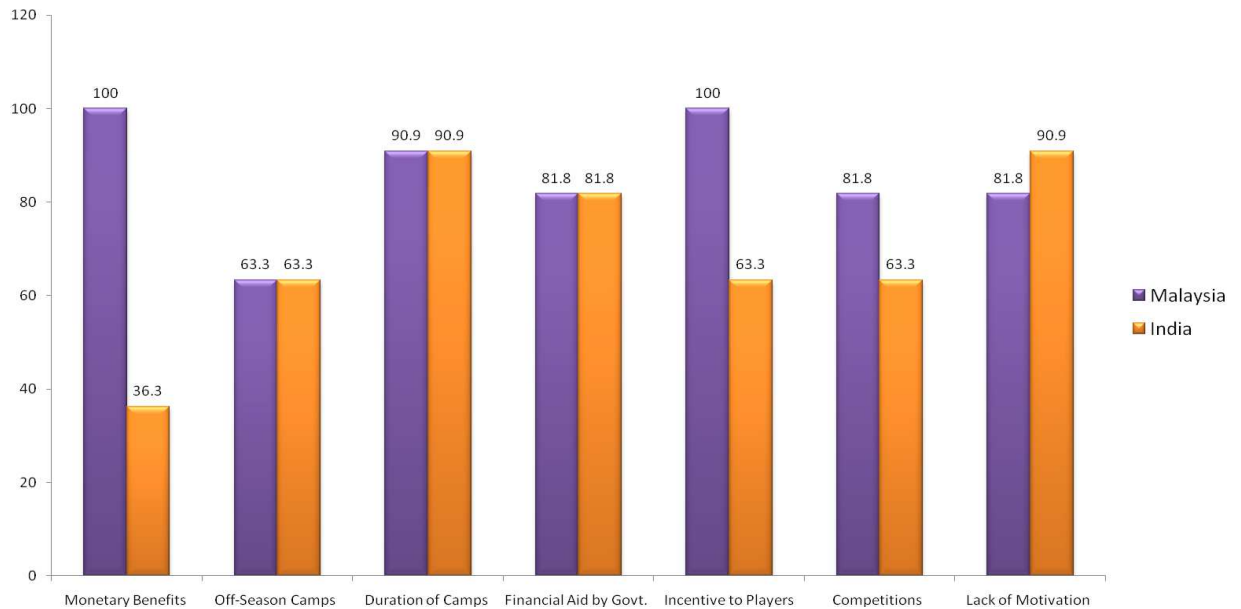
On the **factor of benefits**, monetary by state associations is (100%) in Malaysia , off season camps (63.3%), duration of camp satisfactory (90.9%), financial aid by government (81.8%), incentives, prizes, honours for players is 100%,competitions on regular basis(81.8%), lack of motivation to popularize the game 81.8 % agreed.

Where as in India monetary benefits(36.3%), off season camps organised (63.3%) agreed, 90.9% agreed to be satisfied on duration of coaching camps, financial aid by government (81.8%), incentives, prizes & honours for players(63.3%), competition on regular basis(63.3%), lack of motivation (90.9%)

Table 3

CRITERIA	MALAYSIA	INDIA
Fig. No. 3 Benefits		
➤ Monetary Benefits	100%	36.3%
➤ Off Season Camps	63.3%	63.3%
➤ Duration of Camps	90.9%	90.9%
➤ Financial Aid by Government	81.8%	81.8%
➤ Incentives to Players	100%	63.3%
➤ Competitions	81.8%	63.3%
➤ Lack of Motivation	81.8%	90.9%

Fig : 3

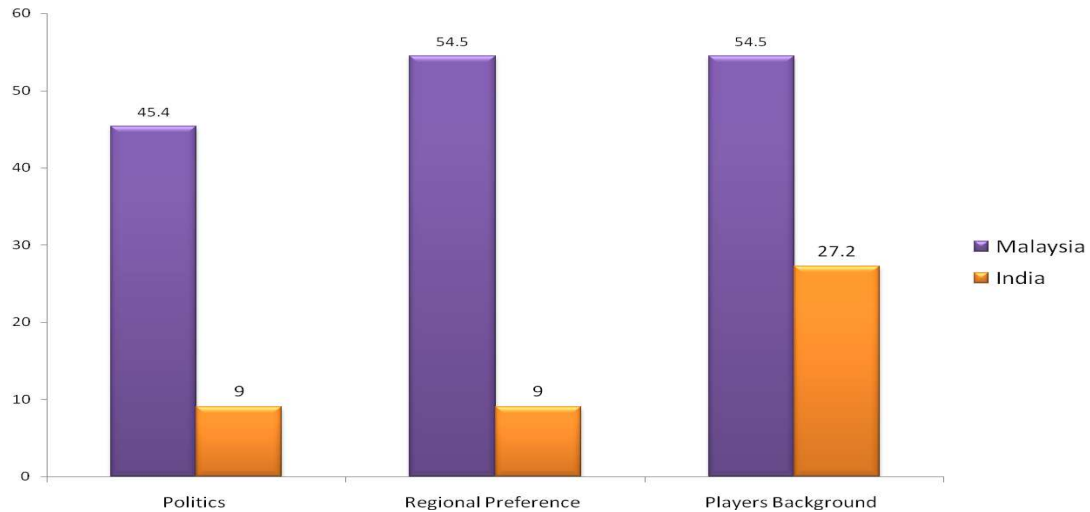


On the **factor of selection** (45.5%) Malaysian agreed on politic involved in selection procedure at national level, 54.5% said there is regional preferences and players background more important during selection. On the factor of selection only 9% agreed on politics involved in selection procedure at national level and regional preferences, 27.2% says players background are more important during selection.

Table 4

CRITERIA	MALAYSIA	INDIA
Fig. No. 5 Selection		
➤ Politics	45.4%	9%
➤ Regional Preferences	54.5%	9%
➤ Players Background	54.5%	27.2%

Fig : 4



On the **factor of performance** Malaysian strongly agree (100%) team performance matters most to them, players are prepared psychologically to compete 90.9%, professionalism helps to improve the standard of the game(100%).

On the factor of performance Indian too strongly agreed on team performance matters most to them (100%), players are psychologically prepared (63.3%), professionalism helps to improve the standard of the game(100%).

Table 5

CRITERIA	MALAYSIA	INDIA
Fig. No. 5 Performance		
➤ Team Performance	100%	100%
➤ Psychologically	90.9%	63.3%
Preparation	100%	100%

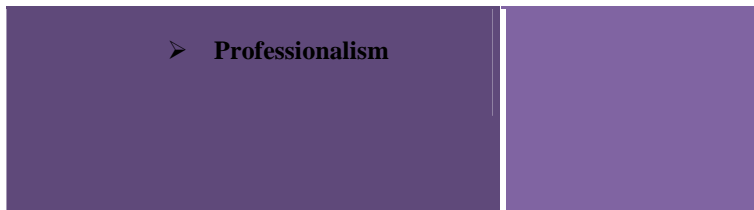
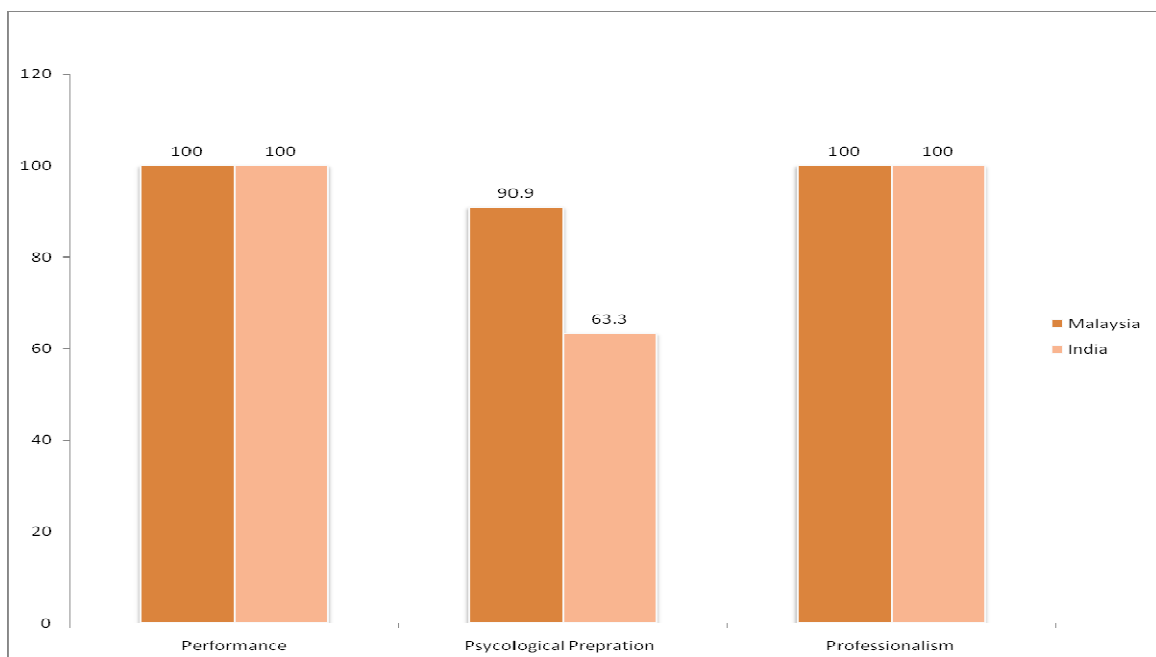


Fig : 5



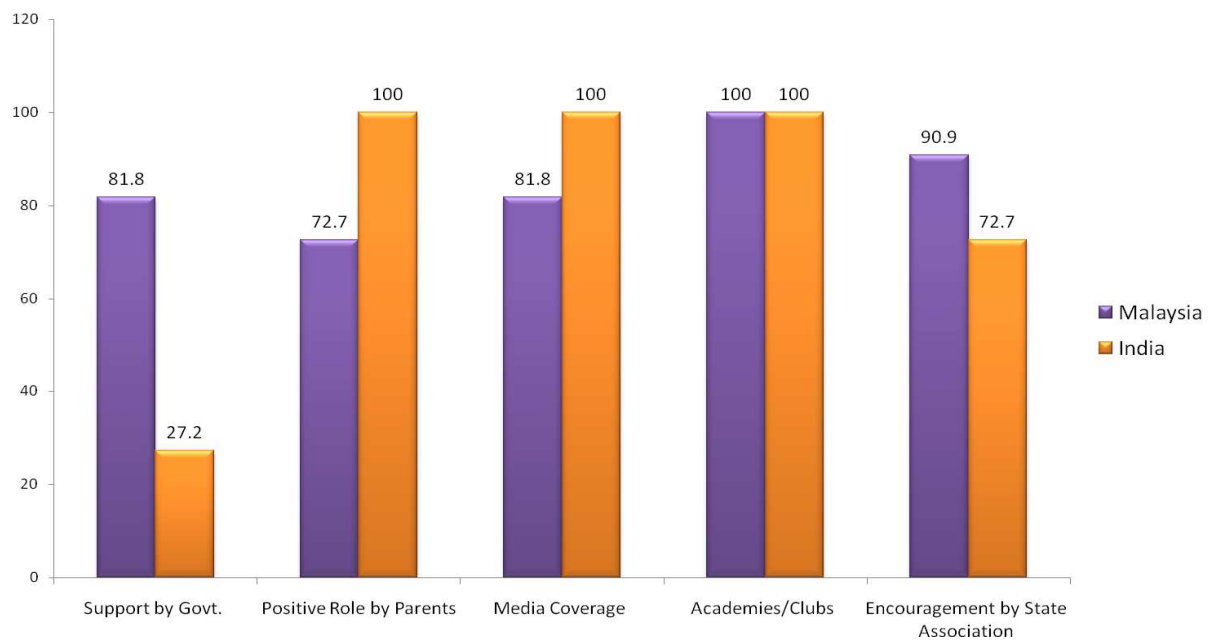
On the **factor of promotion** and publicity 81.8% Malaysian agreed that the government gives sufficient support and promotion to the game of lawn bowl along with parents playing positive role in its promotion (72.7%), media coverage (81.8%), bowling academies/clubs required (100%), encouragement from state associations (90.9%).

On the factor of promotion and publicity 27.3% Indian agreed that the government gives sufficient support and promotion to the game of lawn bowl along with parents playing positive role in its promotion (100%), media coverage (100%), bowling academies/clubs required (100%), encouragement from state associations (72.7%).

Table 6

CRITERIA	MALAYSIA	INDIA
Fig. No. 6 Promotion & Publicity		
➤ Support by Government	81.8%	27.2
➤ Positive Role by Parents	72.7%	100%
➤ Media Coverage	81.8%	100%
➤ Academies /Clubs	100%	100%
➤ Encouragement by State Association	90.9%	72.7%

Fig : 6



4.1Conclusion:

Though India is behind Malaysia in the factors of coaching, selections, benefits etc but it is competing to overcome all and promote the sport of lawn bowls in all the states of India. As presently only 12 states are registered state association with Bowling Federation of India, we may see others coming ahead soon and joining the sport in a competitive manner.

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